

Female (not photographed), similar to the male but with the yellow of the face and upper breast replaced by pale grey, the tail slightly duller yellow and the wings a brighter shade of green.

*Paratypes* (photographs only): male, Tôha (c. 500 m a.s.l.), BMNH reference no. PL2002.1; male Bankoualé junction on the Tadjoura to Randa road (c. 700 m a.s.l.), PL2003.1.

As a subspecies of Green-winged Pytilia, the common English name of Djibouti Green-winged Pytilia is suggested. However, should these birds be found to constitute a new species, the name Yellow-tailed Pytilia would be more appropriate.

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## *Notiochelidon flavipes*; a swallow new to Venezuela

by Miguel Lentino R.

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Although most species of swallows are widely distributed, several only occur in rather restricted habitats. The Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* inhabits a narrow altitudinal fringe in the cloud forests of the Andes (Parker *et al.* 1980) and has been reported from the Cauca Valley in Colombia south to Peru and northern Bolivia (Meyer de Schauensee 1982, Parker & O'Neill 1980, Parker *et al.* 1980, Parker & Rowlett 1984, Parker *et al.* 1985). In this note I present the first sightings and collection of the Pale-footed Swallow in Venezuela, records which considerably extend the northern limits of its range.

The species was originally recorded in August 1985 in the city of Merida, State of Merida, by K. Kauffmann, C. Parrish and A. Altman, bird-watchers who identified it by its song, flight pattern and coloration. Between 23 and 28 December of the same year in Betania, Páramo de Tamá, State Táchira (07°26'N, 72°25'W) I observed several groups of 10–15 individuals of *N. flavipes* foraging over man-made clearings within the cloud forest. At times they were seen together with *N. murina*. One specimen of *N. flavipes* was collected and is currently deposited in the Colección Ornitológica Phelps, Caracas (label number 75731). The specimen is an immature male. Its testes were only slightly developed (1.5 × 0.5 mm), the cranium was not completely ossified, the bill was black with yellow gape, the iris was brown, and the feet, tarsi and mouth lining were pinkish-flesh. Body weight was 7.4 gm. The plumage, which seemed to be fresh, was in good condition. Coloration was similar to that described by Chapman (1922), Meyer de Schauensee (1946) and Zimmer (1955), except that the under tail coverts had pale (or white) clear edges. This characteristic is also present in juveniles of *N. murina meridensis* (3 specimens examined), nominate *N. cyanoleuca* (11), *Atticora melanoleuca* (4) and *A. fasciata* (7). Parker & O'Neill (1980) correctly point out that *N. flavipes* is easily confused with *N. cyanoleuca*, which is a possible reason why it might have been overlooked previously in Venezuela.

Ectoparasites were collected on 2 specimens of *N. murina* and on the specimen of *N. flavipes*, and were identified as *Craterina seguyi* (Hippoboscidae), a species already reported as a parasite of *Notiochelidon*, though its presence was known in Venezuela from only a few specimens collected from an unspecified swallow's nest in the state of Merida (R. Guerrero).

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## Notes and comments on the taxonomy of Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* and Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

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Recent speculation on the little known Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* by Olson (1985) and Bourne (1987) has put in question the taxonomic status of this and Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, and has highlighted the dearth of detail on both species. Details of 2 specimens of *B. fallax* held in the Royal Museum of Scotland (RMS), Edinburgh, together with other published biometrics are here presented along with data on 109 *B. bulwerii* caught alive on islands of the Madeiran Archipelago, Portugal. Birds were mist-netted for ringing and comprised 86 breeding adults in